(b) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Track linking has been completed. The work will be completed by 31.3.2001.

Development of Railways

3153. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of lack of resources, the development of Railways is in very bad shape; if so, what growth rate has been planned and how much money is required for that;

(b) whether there are any plans for modernisation of the Railways; if so, how much money is required for that purpose; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Ministry of Railways for resources mobilisation to achieve the targets set?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) There has been a shortage of resources for undertaking developmental works on the Railways to the desired level. The growth rate planned during the IX Five Year Plan was 5% for freight traffic and 3.1% for passenger traffic. A Plan-size of Rs. 65,000 Crores was projected by the Railways. However, owing to the resource constraints, finally a Plan-size of Rs. 45,413 Crores was approved.

Modernisation of systems on the Railways is a need based and continuous exercise, which takes into account the availability of resources and requirements of traffic and safety.

Railways are making efforts to capture additional traffic and recover outstanding dues of the Railways. Action has been initiated to mobilise resources, though various innovative methods, such as utilisation of Railway land and air space, leasing of right of way for optic fiber communication channels, leasing of advertising rights at Railway Stations and on Rolling stock etc. State Governments and user agencies such as Ports, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) etc. are also being involved in the execution and funding of rail projects.

Resources are also being mobilised through Market Borrowing by the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and through the Own Your Wagon and the revised Build Operate Lease Transfer (BOLT) Schemes.

Completion of Railway Projects

3154. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for completion of rail lines, doubling, gauge conversion and electrification, during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) what has been the performance during the first three years of the Plan;

(c) whether the performance has been satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The targets set for completion of new rail lines, doubling, gauge conversion and electrification during the 9th five year plan and performance thereof during the first three years of the Plan are as under:—

	Target (in Kms.)	Performance (in Kms.) 97-98	98-99	99-00
New Lines	658	12	224	167
Gauge conversion	3259	847	693	260
Doubling	1311	160	260	220
Electrification	2300	445	617	405

(c) and (d) The performance has been slightly less as compared to the proportionate targets for gauge conversion and doubling works for the first three years of the 9th plan. The constraint of resources and some other problems like law and order issues, technical problems, contractor failure etc. have been the reasons for slow progress in some of the cases.